



Hello We Are...



Mike & Alison

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Our Hopes & Dreams

We are two professionals who have been together for more than 10 years. We love our careers, however, what brings us so much joy and is the most important to us, is our family. We hope to raise our children to be happy, healthy, and successful adults by teaching them to be empathic and compassionate people who serve their community.

Alison has always wanted to support others, especially children. This is one reason she became a pediatrician. That is also one of the reasons we became foster parents years ago. We recognize that not everyone has the privileges that we have had, and it's important to give of ourselves to help, serve, and encourage others. It was through foster care that we met our son, Leo, and then gladly adopted him two years later when adoption became his permanency plan. We also have a daughter, Mallory, who looks forward to being a big sister to another sibling. We know that we can love fully any child who comes into our lives, whether biological or adopted.

We hope to grow our family. We both come from small, but very close, families. Alison is an only child, and Mike has one brother. Alison, even as an adult, wishes she had the opportunity to have sibling relationships. We want to offer a child the love and friendship of an older brother and sister and a comfortable and supportive home. We would like our children to learn and grow in a great school district and a friendly neighborhood, participate in sports or activities with family members cheering from the sidelines, and to take our children on adventures to see new places and experience new things. We look forward to growing our family, leading to more love and more fun, and maybe even a little more chaos, but in the best way! We can't wait to see all our children develop bonds with their siblings.

We would like our bond with you to continue to grow as well. We are hoping to have an open relationship with you so that you can be a part of your child's life, see them grow, and know they are doing well. You will be an extension of our family and will always be an important part of your child's identity.

Thank you for taking the time to get to know us. We look forward to getting to know you as well.

Warmest Wishes,

Mike & Alison

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Our Values & Beliefs as Parents

SENSE OF HUMOR - Life is too short to take things too seriously; stopping to laugh at a situation always makes things easier to manage. A shared sense of humor is what drew Mike and Alison together. Our home is full of laughter, we love to joke and be goofy together, it just makes every day more enjoyable. We model this for our kids every day. One of the activities we do in the car together is tell 'jokes'. When it's Leo's turn to tell a joke, he loves to just yell 'joke!', which cracks us all up. Mallory's favorite joke is 'how do you make a tissue dance? you put a little boogie in it!'



COMMUNICATION - We think talking and sharing our feelings out loud is important. We don't keep our feelings bottled up and always know what each other is thinking. I don't think our children understand why we talk as much as we do yet, but they are both chatterboxes. We enjoy the routines of discussing their days when we pick them up from school/daycare, and we especially enjoy bedtimes. Each child gets one-on-one time with a parent to discuss the next day and what they're looking forward to. We hope that as our kids get older, they will continue to communicate with each other and with us, and know that we are always a safe place to share their feelings and their concerns.

FAMILY - No one understands us better than our family. While our families are small, we have been blessed with wonderful close families. We are very happy to be living in Alison's hometown and much closer to Mike's family so we can see them more often. We want our children to know that we will always support them. We also want all of our children to have siblings, so they have people that know them intimately and have shared experiences that allow them to relate to each other.



INTEGRITY - We think integrity is equally about how much we respect ourselves and how much we respect others. We value honesty and trustworthiness. We value the commitments we make. We require our children to keep their commitments, whether activities or sports. We strive to have a mutually respectful relationship. We don't ask them to respect us just because we are their parents, but because we respect them too. We're currently working on trustworthiness and honesty as they've reached the developmental stage of 'fibbing'. We want them to understand that even little lies like 'I brushed my teeth this morning' when they really didn't, means that it is harder to trust them about bigger responsibilities and independence.

RESILIENCE - Overcoming and learning from life's challenges, allows us to have the happy, content, beautiful lives we're living now. To quote Chumbawumba "I get knocked down, but I get up again, you are never gonna keep me down." When we get discouraged, we take a deep breath, reassess our options, and make a new plan. When our children get their feelings hurt, do poorly at school, or don't do well at a game, we talk them through their feelings, what they could do to make it better, and then we help them accomplish that. Hopefully this will set them up to be resilient when they face bigger challenges as they grow up.



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Our Home

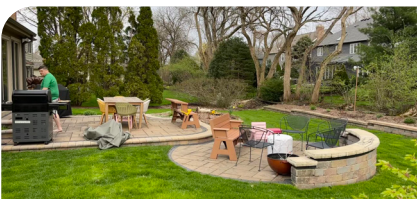
We love our new home! We have been in it for about a year and are busy creating memories and making it our home. It is open and airy with large windows and sky lights. We have warm hardwood floors on the first floor and cozy carpeting on the 2nd floor where the bedrooms are. We have a finished basement with an entertainment area and an indoor bouncy house that the kids love to play on. There is always room in our home and an extra spot at the table for guests.

Our kids are the center of our lives. We like to provide them with all sorts of entertainment and opportunities to learn and experience new things. They have plenty of toys at home - Mallory likes to play with Barbies and do crafts, Leo likes matchbox cars, monster trucks, and remote-control cars. Outside they play with water balloons, sprinklers, the hose, and join the fun with the other kids in the neighborhood riding bikes and scooters down the sidewalks and around the block. Children run back and forth through the yards; our neighbors have a nice play set that they let all the children use. There is a great playground at the end of our block that also has a big open green space and sports fields. We meet up with neighborhood families at the playground or community pool often.

During the week, Mallory goes to elementary school, and Leo goes to preschool. Depending on the evening, the kids have different activities like dance, T-Ball, swimming, or gymnastics. If we don't have an activity, Alison typically cooks dinner, and we eat as a family. Then there is time to play and relax with the kids. Every other night the kids take baths, and then we put on pajamas, read bedtime stories, and the kids go to bed. Mike and Alison enjoy some quiet adult time together. On the weekends, Alison loves lazy weekend mornings at home with her family. It is cozy and casual. She gets to snuggle and relax with the kids. We enjoy making a big breakfast of eggs, fresh fruit, smoothies, and pancakes, waffles, or French toast. We also like to do one big activity every weekend, like going to the zoo, the arboretum, children's museum, or Medieval Times, etc. Alison cooks "Sunday Dinner" and her mother joins us to spend quality time with the kids. Alison cooks a full meal, sometimes appetizers, always a homemade dessert, and all of us sit down and eat together. Alison hopes this tradition will continue as our children get older, and they will always come home on Sunday nights to enjoy a good meal and spend time together, and hopefully bring their significant others and possibly children some day.

From our past years as a foster family, our children are used to having 'sometimes' siblings, so the idea of another child coming into the home is welcome. Mallory has always been the best big sister and has embraced every child that has come into our home with open arms. Now that we have closed our home to foster care, she is very excited to have another 'forever' sibling. She loves helping with the littlest child of our next-door neighbors'. Leo is just excited to have another playmate.

This child's room is next door to ours. It is a large room and has windows that face south to let in a lot of natural light. It is carpeted and the walls are painted a peaceful pale gray. We haven't decorated it yet because we want to make sure we design it best for whatever age of child joins our family.



HOBBIES:

Adoptive Mother: Baking, cooking, crafting, gardening, reading, trying new cuisines, going on adventures with our children such as the zoo, museums, gardens, etc.

Adoptive Father: Golf, yard work, outdoor activities with our children, attending and watching sporting events, listening to music, and going to concerts.

PROFESSIONS:

Adoptive Mother: Physician, Pediatric Infectious Diseases

Adoptive Father: Underwriter

EDUCATION LEVEL:

Adoptive Mother: Doctoral Degree

Adoptive Father: Bachelors Degree

PLUS:

- Both non-smokers

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Our Family

We met on match.com. Alison knew she was moving to Michigan for her fellowship, so she started looking on match.com just to make some friends, if nothing else. But then she met Mike, and after a few weeks of emailing, texting, and talking, she took the plunge of driving four hours to meet him. We immediately clicked. We dated long distance for about 18 months, because of course shortly after we met, Mike ended up taking a job transfer to Indiana, and it took a while to be back in the same city again. But we stuck it out because we both saw a future together.

We dated for more than three years before we got married. We really balance each other out. Alison is more the practical, while Mike is more the optimist. Alison is more goal-oriented and driven, while Mike is more reflective and laid back. Alison loves to plan, and Mike likes to be spontaneous. When Alison gets excited, Mike has a calming effect.

We love spending time with our children yet make time as a couple too. We'll go out to dinner at a 'grown up' restaurant, go see a movie, go to a concert or comedy show, or do an activity like miniature golf. We enjoy being together, whatever we're doing. It's always better when the other person is there.

We have two children. Mallory is almost six, and Leo is four. Leo was our foster son. He came to live with us when he was 21 months old, and then we adopted him two years later. We look forward to growing our family. Alison had a very small family growing up as an only child, and she is excited to have a bigger family. Family and holiday meals were always only five or six people, and Alison always longed for the big family get-togethers that her friends had.

Alison's mother lives a short drive away and is very active in our lives. We see her at least a couple times per week. She helps out with the children quite often. Mike's parents live in northern Michigan. We see them several times per year, most holidays, and then they make an effort to visit for birthdays, recitals, and other major events. Mike has a younger brother who also lives in Michigan. He enjoys being an uncle and is always happy to do activities with the kids.

The kids believe in Santa and the Easter bunny, and we try to make the magic of the holidays real for them. We're just starting to develop vacation traditions. We would like for the kids to see all 50 states. For the past several years, we have spent a week around the 4th of July at Mike's parents' lake house. Mike shares a love of a few different sports with his father and brother, like golf and skiing, and we hope that our kids will enjoy those activities too so they can all do them together.

Our relatives can't wait to add another member to our family. Throughout our foster care journey, both Mike's and Alison's families were always supportive. They welcomed the children into their homes, bought them presents at Christmas and on their birthdays, treating them just like they treated Mallory. They were all thrilled when we adopted Leo, and they are all excited about the possibility of another child.



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